

Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 02887.0316

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
 )  
Kazunari FUJIYAMA et al. )  
 ) Group Art Unit:  
Application No.: 10/525,754 )  
 ) Examiner:  
Filed: February 25, 2005 )  
 )  
For: OPERATION-SUPPORTING )  
 )  
APPARATUS FOR PLANT )  
EQUIPMENT )

**U.S. National Phase of International Application No. PCT/JP2003/011102**

**MAIL STOP PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 and are in a non-English language:

1. Japanese Application No. 2000-259222

2. Japanese Application No. 09-160635
3. Japanese Application No. 08-234832

An English-language abstract of the documents is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

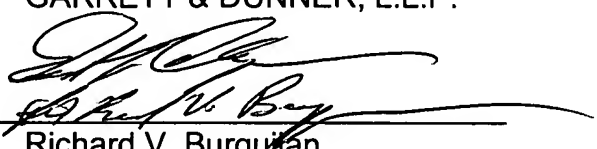
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 26, 2005

By:

  
Richard V. Burguian  
Reg. No. 31,744

Enclosures  
RVB/FPD/gah

ERNEST F. CHAPMAN  
Reg. No. 25,961

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1 PTO  <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">             INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT         </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
Application Number		10,000,754			
Filing Date		February 25, 2005			
First Named Inventor		Kazunari FUJIYAMA			
Art Unit					
Examiner Name					
Attorney Docket Number		02887.0316			
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

**Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP-2000-259222	09-22-2000	HITACHI LTD		Abstract
		JP-09-160635	06-20-1997	MITSUBISHI CHEM CORP MITSUBISHI SOGO KENKYUSHO:KK		Abstract
		JP-08-234832	09-13-1996	TOSHIBA CORP		Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
-----------------------	--------------------

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.